engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces, said flexible strip of [deformable] material being positioned at least in part between [exposed surfaces of] any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

21. (Four Times Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced[-]apart end surfaces terminated by end edges at opposite ends of said truss and a flexible strip of deformable material defining, at least in part, said pair of spaced apart end surfaces [which] such that forcing said end surfaces[, if forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss[,] results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to [a] said resilient member [included therein] with said resilient member having opposite ends thereof each ending short of said end edges; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the said restoring forces, said resilient member being secured to a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material positioned between [exposed surfaces of] any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

23. (Twice Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a plurality of resilient members therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces [which] such that forcing said end surfaces[, if forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reducing force external to said truss[,] results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

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28. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of an user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a resilient member therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween [which truss, if] such that forcing said end surfaces [are forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss[, has] results in restoring forces [resulting therein] in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said intermediate segment having an extent along a transverse direction substantially perpendicular to an extension direction extending along said intermediate segment and said end surfaces which is less than those extents of both said end surfaces along said transverse direction; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces and to hold said truss substantially conformed about said outer wall tissues.

32. (Twice Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a resilient member therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween [which truss, if] such that forcing said end surfaces [are forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss[, has] results in restoring forces [resulting therein] in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said resilient member being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces of said truss; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues adjacent thereto sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces and to hold said truss substantially conformed about said outer wall tissues but without at least a substantial portion of said intermediate segment being so engaged with said outer wall tissues adjacent thereto when concurrently in contact therewith.

36. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having both a flexible strip of material and a resilient member therein, and further having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween [which truss, if] such that forcing said end surfaces [are forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss[, has] results in restoring forces [resulting therein] in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said resilient member

being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces of said truss to thereby be adhered to said flexible strip of material also in contact with said adhesive; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

47. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having both a flexible strip of [plastic] material and a resilient member therein, and further having a pair of spaced[-]apart end surfaces [which] such that forcing said end surfaces[, if forced] toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss[,] results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces [due to said truss including a resilient member], said resilient member and said flexible strip of material each being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces including having any portions of said flexible strip of material positioned against these outer wall tissues as a result of such engaging thereof being directly adhered to those outer wall tissues.

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Action of October 26, 1998. In that Action, claims 2 through 7, 16, 21 and 23 through 48 were rejected.